



## THE SOLE OF AMERICA Danny Finnegan '11 Walks Across the Country

by Nicholas Plante '18

What's your biggest dream?" When Danny Finnegan '11 jokingly asked coworker Abby Bongaarts this question, he did not expect a serious answer. The two were out eating after a day of service for the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, and they had agreed not to talk about their work or the volunteer house in which they lived. Despite the sarcastic tone in which Danny broached this new subject, Abby decided to answer honestly: "To walk across America."

Barely thinking before his response, Danny blurted out, "I'm in." And just like that, a life-changing series of events was set in motion.

"I was passionate about the idea since I was 18," explained Abby, a 24-year-old from St. Louis Park, Minnesota. "I knew I'd do it one day; I just had to wait until the timing was right."

In March 2016, that time had finally come.

Danny and Abby spent a full year planning their trip. For inspiration, they read the stories of individuals who had already walked across the United States – a feat which only about 10 brave people accomplish per year. The two also conducted heavy research regarding the route they would take and the equipment they would bring. They published a website, walkacrossamerica2017.com, to share a detailed description of their plans as well as journal updates, interviews, and photos from throughout the walk.

The two sat down every two weeks to discuss the logistics of the trip, and their enthusiasm continued to grow with each meeting. Any doubts about this dream becoming a reality were quickly forgotten.

"A lot of people told me they wanted to do this over the years but obviously never followed through," said Abby. "However, I could tell that Danny was really committed."

Danny and Abby have a hard time citing just one motive for their walk. They were driven by a desire to meet new people and experience the country in a new light, but they also sought to learn more about themselves along the way.

"As time went on, I continuously found new and exciting challenges in the plan," explained Danny. "It was a test of endurance – of physical strength – but it also had an introspective nature to it. After all, we'd be spending large parts of each day by ourselves."

Since the trip was entirely self-funded, Danny and Abby decided to put any money they were offered towards JOIN, the nonprofit they had worked for through a Jesuit Corps program. This organization supports the homeless and seeks to obtain affordable and permanent housing for them, a cause that Danny was especially drawn to during his studies at Fordham University and his subsequent community service experiences. Danny and Abby humbly planned on raising \$1,000 at first, but that number

was surpassed in the first day. The two then set up a Fundly page with a goal of \$20,000, or roughly \$5 a mile. They ended up getting \$23,204 from 184 donors on the website alone! With the money they received from family, friends, and people they met on their journey, their total ballooned to \$30,000. Half-way through the trip, JOIN received a grant that would match any donation of \$500 or more given to Danny and Abby, bringing the grand total to over \$50,000.

From the time they began working for JOIN, Danny and Abby have made a strong impression on the organization, recalls Deputy Director Will Harris.

"They both jumped right in at JOIN, managing the chaos of a small homeless service provider, doing big work with

lots of heart and too few staff," Harris noted.

After seeing the great lengths Danny and Abby were willing to go in support of JOIN, it was clear to Harris that the two young volunteers were "compassionate, insightful, inspired, and inspiring," he said. "Good people achieve extraordinary things; Abby and Danny are proof of that."

The big walk began in Long Beach, Long Island, not too far from Danny's hometown of Rockville Centre, on March 1 of this year. The duo embarked on their trek towards San Francisco – 3,200 miles away – with not much more than sleeping bags, tents, toiletries, and other basic camping supplies for when they would have to spend the night in the wilderness or someone's backyard. Danny and Abby had an estimated travel time of six-to-seven months, which comes out to between 20 and 25 miles each day.

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Pictured here on the Brooklyn Bridge, Danny Finnegan '11 and his friend Abby Bongaarts began their walk from Long Beach on March 1 and arrived in San Francisco on September 16. (Photo Courtesy: Danny Finnegan)

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# FROM THE *Pilot's Seat*

## THE ROAD I'VE TAKEN

### Letting My Heart Guide Me Along the Path of Life



by Colin Capece '18

"I knew that I could be happy wherever I went to high school, but I eventually chose Chaminade because I felt that God was tugging on my soul."

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, and sorry I could not travel both...

These lines are the first from "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost, arguably the most famous, thought-provoking poem in all of American literature. Unfortunately, Frost's masterpiece is also one of the most commonly misunderstood works of modern literature.

The speaker of the poem is forced to choose only one path upon reaching a fork in the road. Many mistake the poem's meaning, claiming that the path the speaker decides to take is meant to represent a course of action that is unique from the rest of humanity – in life, we are supposed to forge our own path.

Frost actually describes one road as being equally "as fair" as the other. The poet is examining a situation that all of us experience at some point. When we come to a crossroads, the choice we make is never an easy one, and the options we are faced with often seem equally fair. Inevitably, we cannot travel both paths, and so there comes a point when we must choose only one and leave the other behind for good.

Being an athlete for much of my life, I have played in some big games in challenging environments. Before every single one of those games, a coach has said something along the lines of, "Don't let your emotions get the best of you," or, "Play with your head, not your heart." I have found that this same advice does not apply as well to many life-altering decisions, like the one I faced as an eighth grader.

With both a father and a grandfather who walked the halls of Chaminade as students, it seemed to me that when I was deciding which high school I would attend, I was destined for Jackson Avenue. I remember feeling overjoyed when I received that white envelope in the mail with my acceptance letter. Heck, this had been my dream my entire life, and I thought the decision would be an easy one. Soon, however, I began to question my judgment. I thought about my close-knit group of friends from public school with whom I had been developing relationships since I was in the first grade. Those guys – and girls, believe it or not – meant the world to me, and I just couldn't imagine leaving them. I had reached my own crossroads, and there were appealing details down both paths. But, of course, I eventually traveled down the road that led to Chaminade.

Fast-forward to the start of my senior year. Even though the academics were challenging, I had enjoyed Chaminade for the first three years of my high-school career. But something was different now. For whatever reason, I started to miss my old friends again. I let the feeling eat away at me, and I found myself second-guessing the decision I made three years ago. Rereading Frost's poem provided me with a much-needed change in perspective.

I understand now that I did the only thing I could have to make the best possible decision. I considered the pros and cons for each option, but both seemed to be equally fair. I realized that trying to make a decision with my head was useless, so I had to make one with my heart. I knew that I could be happy wherever I went to high school, but I eventually chose Chami-

nade because I felt that God was tugging on my soul. I really can't explain the feeling, but I knew that I would never forgive myself if I didn't go with my gut.

For my own sanity, I have stopped questioning how my life would have gone if I had chosen to go to public school. The speaker of "The Road Not Taken" peers down both paths until they reach a bend. My interpretation of this is that for any important decision that we make in life, we can often see only the immediate future. As an eighth-grader, it was foolish to think that I could have predicted how my life was going to turn out three years down the road. As strange as it may seem, the best thing one can do when he or she reaches a fork in the road is to listen to the heart more than the mind.

For any member of the class of 2018 – or anyone else who is reading this column, really – I hope that you can learn from my story. As we rapidly approach our graduation from Chaminade, we will soon enter a world where each of us will face a number of different crossroads. Make the most of the opportunity that you choose. Live your life with no regrets, for it is impossible to move forward when you are constantly looking backwards. Always know that God has a plan for you and will set you on the course that is best. Listen to His calling, because if you ignore the heart, you will always be left wondering what could have been.

Living with the idea that we leave so many good things behind when we chose one path is difficult, but always remember that there is another path awaiting you that is usually equally fair. ➤

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# ON THE *Flight Path*

## TECH-WIZ OF ALL TRADES

Justin Tamayo '13 Prepares to Enter a Cutting-Edge Field

by Nicholas Plante '18

Like many Chaminade alumni, Justin Tamayo '13 hopes to end up on Wall Street upon graduating from college this spring. But he'll be taking a rather unique route to this coveted destination.

Justin is currently pursuing a master's degree in electrical and computer engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and he plans on applying the skills he has learned to the world of financial technologies, or FinTech.

Over the past few years, FinTech has revolutionized the business landscape, replacing traditional practices with more convenient, high-tech services. This emerging field encompasses all the automated processes involved in financial transactions, from mobile payments and online fundraising to using a credit card. According to an Accenture report, global investment in FinTech companies has jumped from \$900 million to over \$12 billion from 2008 to 2015, and with such a rapidly evolving technological landscape, it isn't going anywhere anytime soon.

As Justin put it, "Wall Street has been revolutionized by electronic trading; billions of transactions occur daily, and this would not be possible without state-of-the-art technology."

At Chaminade, Justin served as vice president of the Math Club and co-president of Science Olympiad. Both activities

allowed him to explore career possibilities in STEM fields. The summer before his senior year, he attended a program at Stony Brook University that formally introduced him to the area of study he has chosen to pursue.

"I love understanding how electronics work; it's amazing that something as simple as an on-off switch, when combined with billions of other switches, results in the devices that have revolutionized everyday life," Justin explained. "After all, how cool is it to think that our packages will soon be delivered by drones, or that our cars will be totally autonomous?"

It is evident that engineers are in great demand in today's modern society. The world is experiencing many complex problems in imperative fields like transportation, the environment, and finance. It takes drive and creativity to solve these issues, and Justin has proven that he is up to the challenges at hand.

"I think Chaminade does a great job of instilling students with these essential skills, as well as pushing them to know their full potential," he reflected.

Justin considers himself just one of many former Chaminade students who, he said, "are excited to apply their interests in math and science to improve the world in concrete ways, while also having fun doing it." 



Justin Tamayo '13

## LIVING THE DREAM...IN A TREE

Brian Johnson '14 Builds Himself a Bright Future

by Michael Tsui '18



Brian Johnson '14

Brian Johnson '14 has been passionate about carpentry since he was a child. At five years old, he built his first treehouse with the help of his father. In 2013 he watched his first episode of *Treehouse Masters* on Animal Planet and dreamed of working on the show. Nearly 20 years after building that first treehouse, he landed an internship turning *Treehouse Masters* host Pete Nelson's hand-drawn sketches into buildable creations for the program.

Brian is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree at the New York Institute of Technology in Old Westbury. For him, this was a difficult choice to make.

"I chose to stay home for college in order to save money, as well as continue to work to pay for college," he explained. "While it was difficult to make this decision, as many of my fellow Chaminade graduates decided to go away to college, the one thing that kept me grounded was knowing that God had a greater plan for me. Looking back, it's easy to see the path He laid for me."

This decision has certainly paid off for Brian. After seeing that his idol Pete Nelson was hosting a meet-and-greet at a Dispatch Home Show in Columbus, Ohio, Brian made the trip to meet Nelson. The two instantly bonded over a discussion about their mutual love for Long Island.

Brian made a lasting impression, and after Nelson reviewed his portfolio later that day, he offered Brian an internship with Nelson Treehouse and Supply.

"I was encouraged to actively participate in the design of the treehouses, and many of my suggestions found their way into the final blueprints," Brian reflected.

Brian attributes much of his success in carpentry to Chaminade. He gained invaluable experience during his time with the school's Woodworking Club, as well as from working with Chaminade's carpentry crew for a total of seven summers.

"Fr. Garrett [Long, S.M. '62] and Frank DeVito, Chaminade's in-house carpenter, taught me the trade, which served as a great foundation for my architecture classes," he said.

Thanks in part to their influence, Brian mastered crucial skills in such areas as framing, finishing, and basic plumbing before he even entered college.

"Chaminade never leaves you," he explained. "My advice to current students is to consider your motive for going to college. Are you going to treat college as a vacation, or are you going to treat it as a job?"

For Brian, choosing the latter has made all the difference. 

# OUT OF THIS WORLD?

## Elon Musk Is Beating NASA in the Race to Mars

by Christopher Convey '18

On July 20, 1969, NASA's *Apollo 11* program successfully landed men on the moon. Although this was an astounding accomplishment at the time, the United States now has an even farther target in sight: the Red Planet. That's right, men on Mars.

What seemed impossible 48 years ago is now a very enticing possibility. As technology constantly improves, this mission, once a dream, is rapidly becoming more of a realistic possibility. The question is: how do we intend to get to Mars, located a staggering 141.6 million miles away from our home? Many believe this decades-old dream can be achieved through the work of one man – Elon Musk.

Musk, the self-made technology tycoon, isn't the average billionaire. He received bachelor's degrees in physics and economics from the University of Pennsylvania and shortly thereafter cofounded PayPal, launching his successful career. Musk has a net worth of \$20.5 billion, primarily from his job as CEO of the revolutionary all-electric motor company, Tesla, Inc., and from founding Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) in May of 2002. SpaceX develops and manufactures space launch vehicles with a focus on advancing the state of rocket technology.

SpaceX, specifically its series of *Falcon* rockets, is currently Musk's top priority. Musk has a long-term goal of enabling people to travel throughout space and live on other planets. The first milestone in reaching that goal was accomplished back in 2008, when SpaceX's Falcon 1 rocket became the first privately funded, liquid-fueled vehicle to put a satellite into Earth's orbit.

SpaceX is one of just two companies awarded a contract by NASA to help develop a U.S. astronaut transport. NASA is particularly interested in Musk's multi-billion dollar corporation due to the fact that SpaceX's technology is years ahead of the competition.

SpaceX has a secret weapon when it comes to rockets – they can land themselves. After launch, the Falcon rockets fall into a controlled descent, as miniature boosters keep the rocket upright and guide it to its landing pad. This opens the door to a wide range of benefits. For one, the rockets can be reused. Each of NASA's space shuttle launches costs around \$1.5 billion (approximately \$27,000 per pound of cargo launched into low Earth orbit).

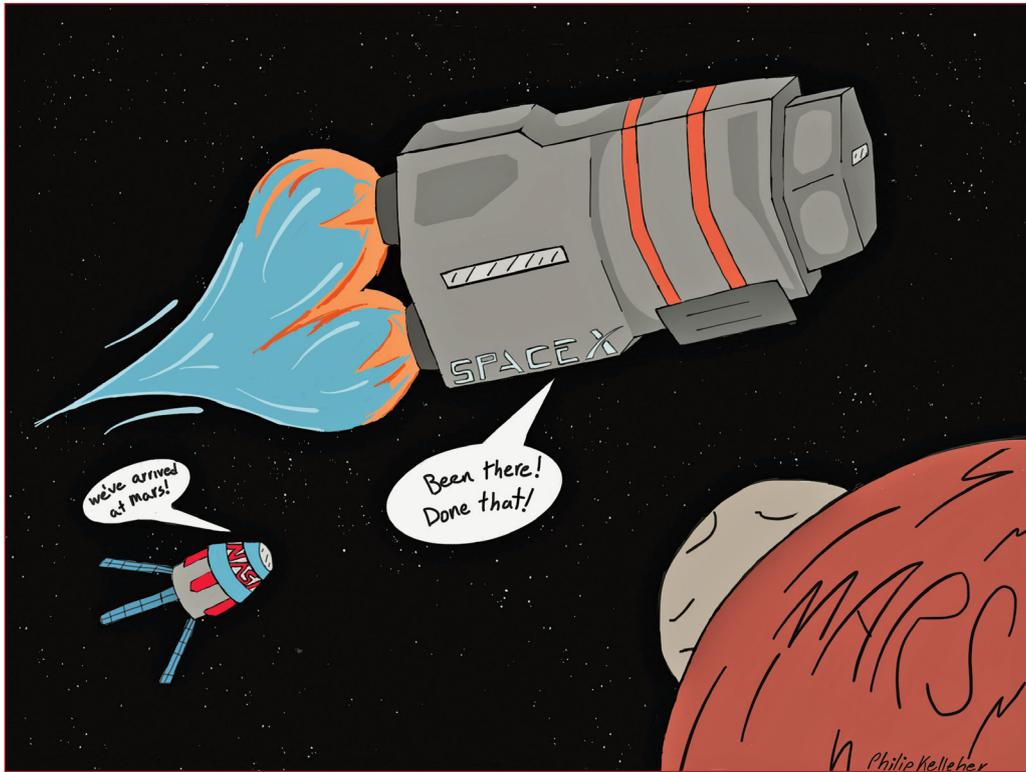
At the International Space Station Research and Development Conference in Washington, D.C., Musk said, "I think Falcon Heavy is going to be a great vehicle. There's just so much that's really impossible to test on the ground, and we'll do our best. It actually ended up being way harder to do Falcon Heavy than we thought."

But it's almost ready, and if all goes according to plan, SpaceX will launch the Falcon Heavy from Cape Canaveral, Florida in late November.

Elon Musk is more than just a tech geek, billionaire, and space fanatic. Keeping in line with his endeavor to make spaceflight available to all individuals, one of Musk's goals is to reduce the cost by a factor of ten; this includes the mission to Mars. SpaceX intends to launch their Dragon spacecraft on a Falcon Heavy in 2018 to soft-land on Mars. This will be a precursor to the manned flights scheduled to begin 2024.

At their current pace, Musk and SpaceX aim to put humans on Mars a full ten years ahead of NASA. Musk stressed the importance of colonizing Mars back in 2012, stating, "An asteroid or a supervolcano could destroy us, and we face risks the dinosaurs never saw: an engineered virus, inadvertent creation of a micro black hole, catastrophic global warming, or some as-yet-unknown technology could spell the end of us. Humankind evolved over millions of years, but in the last 60 years atomic weaponry created the potential to extinguish ourselves. Sooner or later, we must expand life beyond this green and blue ball—or go extinct."

Elon Musk is testing the limits of technology for the better of humanity. From producing all-electric cars and renewable energy to experimenting with reusable rocket boosters and spaceflight, Musk has become the face of technological innovation. He has paved the way for our future, whether that be here, on the Red Planet, or beyond. ✨



SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket, on the other hand, costs only \$57 million per launch (approximately \$2,500 per pound of cargo launched into low Earth orbit). This tremendous cost differential is part of what makes SpaceX so appealing.

While his technology itself is rather impressive, Musk has something even more ambitious in mind with a mission to Mars. NASA's SLS, or Space Launch System, is the most powerful rocket ever tested, and the organization plans on using it to bring men to Mars. Elon Musk and his team of engineers, however, manufactured the Falcon Heavy rocket, which, once tested, will be the most powerful operational rocket in the world by a factor of two. In addition to having 27 Merlin engines that produce five million pounds of thrust, the Falcon Heavy is also able to return to Earth on the landing pad. Capable of delivering more than double the payload of NASA's shuttles, the Falcon Heavy will make manned missions to Mars much more practical.

# APPLYING THEMSELVES

## More Students Seek Early Decisions from Colleges

by Michael Tsui '18

Supplemental essays. Standardized tests. Grade Point Averages. Extracurriculars. Holistic reviews...

Terms like these dominate the thoughts of many high school seniors across the nation each Fall as they scramble to work on their college applications. But, if finalizing selections from a pool of nearly 5,000 institutions of higher education across the United States isn't overwhelming enough, students must also decide exactly when to submit their applications.

In today's extremely competitive college application environment, an increasing number of Chaminade students are hoping to improve their chances of entry by applying through early decision (ED) opportunities.

With acceptance rates at many elite colleges and universities residing in the single digits, students need to be aware of every possible advantage they may have in order to gain admission. Attempting to maximize their chances, 16% of Chaminade seniors (71 students) applied ED to their top-choice college last year. Students must be aware, however, that early decision is a binding

commitment for a student if he or she is admitted to the school. Acceptance rates tend to be higher than the regular-decision rates because colleges want to accept students who they know will enroll from the get-go.

Last year, over one-third of ED candidates were offered admission at Washington University in St. Louis, which is more than double the overall acceptance rate of 16%. Northwestern University also pulled a much higher percentage of applicants from their ED pool, 35%, compared to their markedly more competitive 13% acceptance rate during the general admission process. For Chaminade students like Neil Sathi '18, these percentages were hard to ignore.

"I chose to apply early decision because I felt I had an advantage of getting into my reach school," explained Neil.

Students who apply via early decision have often done their research, visited schools, and

are fully committed to attend their top choice if accepted. Remember, acceptance to an early decision school means that the applying student must attend, barring some kind of extreme circumstances.

The choice was clear for Nick Mattone '17. "I had wanted to go to the University of Pennsylvania for as long as I could remember, so early decision definitely felt like the right choice," he explained.

With an ED rate of 22% compared with 7% for RD (regular decision), applying early may have been one of the deciding factors in his acceptance into Penn.

Considering all of the above, if a passionate student has a clear-cut favorite school, and if he's willing to work hard to get everything done on time, applying early often can be an intelligent move.

"It requires some planning ahead in terms of applications," explained Nick, "but in the end it's worth it if you know you definitely want to go somewhere."

However, while early decision can be a great opportunity for many, there are some disadvantages. Mr. Andy Lockwood, a college admissions and financial aid expert, estimates that at least one-third of his clients choose to apply ED.

Mr. Lockwood cautions his clients that applying ED can negatively impact the financial aid packages offered to applicants. When a student commits early to a college, there is no reason for the college to offer financial incentives.

"Colleges are businesses and don't always give their highest and best offers. The best way to improve the amount is to show offers from competitive colleges," stated Mr. Lockwood.

Since ED applicants are required to withdraw other applications if accepted, the ability

to negotiate and compare packages from other schools is lost.

ED applications need to be submitted by early to mid-November, so early decision may not be a good option for students looking to enhance their applications during the Fall of their senior year through first semester grades or additional standardized test scores.

The companies that administer the SAT and ACT have also recognized that there is a growing trend of students wishing to apply early to schools. To accommodate the earlier deadlines, the College Board added an August SAT test date, and the ACT exam will be offered next July.

Most college admissions officers will say that the best time to apply is when an applicant can present his best possible application to an admissions department. If that timing also coincides with the ability to apply early decision, what is there to lose? (Except possibly money...) ➔



Tens of millions of students apply to college each year, making it extremely difficult to stand out within the sea of applicants. In addition, the college acceptance landscape is becoming increasingly arbitrary. In an effort to admit a diverse student body as well as increase their national rankings, many colleges consider a number of factors beyond an applicant's academic qualifications when making admittance decisions.

Academic, demographic, financial, and geographic standards of a given college are factored into its decision of whether or not to admit a student. For example, a school may be in need of more art history majors, enrollees from the Midwest, or full-pay students at a given point in their acceptance process. Factoring in the extra considerations usually given to legacy applicants with the aforementioned factors, an already low acceptance rate for the remaining applicant pool begins to look even bleaker.

# A COMMUNITY ANCHORED TOGETHER

## Chaminade Students Continue to Lend a Hand at Camp A.N.C.H.O.R.

by Owen Barthel '19

*Imagine feeling out of place everywhere you go.*

*Imagine knowing that you are different from other people.*

*Imagine that, every single day, people notice that you are different, too.*

*How does that make you feel?*

Now, imagine a place that makes such emotions disappear – somewhere that replaces this notion with feelings of joy and acceptance.

For hundreds of special-needs people in the Town of Hempstead, Camp A.N.C.H.O.R. (Answering the Needs of Citizens with Handicaps through Organized Recreation) is that place.

Founded almost 50 years ago and headquartered in Lido Beach, A.N.C.H.O.R. is a source of pure joy for all involved. For the special-needs campers, the camp provides safe access to an incredible array of activities ranging from singing to surfing. For the student volunteers, many of whom attend Chaminade, it provides immeasurable fun and unexpected rewards.

“We call it the happiest place on Earth, and I truly believe that it is,” said Thomas Epstein '18. “Out of the 1,000-plus people that go to camp every day in the summer, it’s difficult to find one person without a smile on their face.”

To those who know Chaminade’s mission of developing “Christian community and education of the heart,” it comes as no surprise that dozens of Flyers volunteer at A.N.C.H.O.R.

The heart certainly gets a workout at the camp. First-time volunteers often approach the camp with trepidation, only to have it melt away as a result of the sheer enthusiasm of the campers.

“I used to be so uncomfortable around people with special needs,” explained John Frohnhofner '18. “Now I understand that there is nothing to be scared of, that children and adults with special needs are not intimidating.”

John added that he started at A.N.C.H.O.R. “only because my sister forced me to do it, but I am forever thankful.”

Camp A.N.C.H.O.R.’s flagship summer program runs from just after the Fourth of July into early August. Each day, dozens of yellow buses from all over deliver campers and volunteers to the south shore of Long Island.

The camp looks like a carnival, with giant striped tents to keep participants from frying in the summer sun. Each day, when the buses unload, the camp quickly develops a cheerful atmosphere to match its appearance, with excitement filling the air as the day’s events

When the summer is over, A.N.C.H.O.R. moves its programs to indoor facilities, such as bowling alleys, swimming pools and recreation centers.

For all the fun, volunteers say they learn some very serious lessons about responsibility and the perceptions and realities of interacting with special-needs people.

Ben Sasso '21 said his experience at the camp has given him a better understanding of people with special needs. A job he expected to involve “babysitting” turned out to be much more.

Thomas Flatley '18 also gained some important insight from his time as a volunteer. “The camp has made me more understanding and patient when interacting with others because I’ve realized not everyone’s brain works the same way,” he said.

The impacts that Camp A.N.C.H.O.R. has on volunteers can run deep and extend well into their adult lives. Martin Brull '92 started working at A.N.C.H.O.R. over 25 years ago. The experience literally changed his life, and he now works full time with special-needs people, both at Camp A.N.C.H.O.R. and in his work as a physical therapist.

In 2008, Martin created the Tommy Brull Foundation, which raises money for A.N.C.H.O.R. and other special-needs efforts through music festivals and other events. The foundation is named for Martin’s brother, who died in the late 1990s. Tommy was also

an avid A.N.C.H.O.R. volunteer, and the main gym in the Lido Beach facility carries his name.

If there is one thing which connects all A.N.C.H.O.R. volunteers, it is the lessons they have learned from the campers. People start their work at the camp thinking they are giving something, but they end up getting much more in return.

“The special needs kids treat everyone like they’re perfect,” said John Bonanno '19. “Seeing this really changed me personally; we have to follow their example and treat others with that same sense of dignity and love.” ✨



Each summer at Camp A.N.C.H.O.R. concludes with a joyful celebration—a fitting end to a fulfilling experience for both campers and volunteers. (Photo Courtesy: Kelsey Quinn)

approach.

A typical day features a wide range of activities, the most popular of which is probably the surf camp. Campers, with the help of experienced surfers and lifeguards, paddle out into the ocean on surfboards and ride the waves back to the beach.

These campers also have an annual swim meet in the A.N.C.H.O.R. pool against the swim team from Malibu Beach Club. The A.N.C.H.O.R. team is undefeated and invariably sends their competitors away with friendly taunts like, “I don’t know why you even bother coming here – you lose every year!”

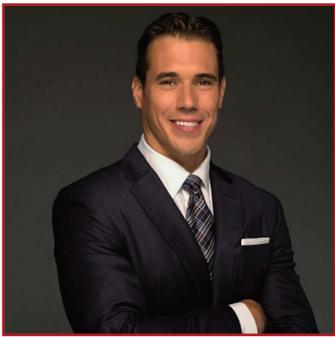


Photo Courtesy:  
Fox Sports

# 5 Questions with...

## BRADY QUINN

Interview by Owen Barthel '19

**B**radly Quinn is a Maxwell Award-winning quarterback who attended the University of Notre Dame before playing in the NFL. In addition to impressing on the football field, Quinn graduated from South Bend with dual degrees in political science and finance. He credits his Catholic education with preparing him for life beyond college and even beyond football. Since his NFL playing days came to an end in 2014, Brady has moved into the sports broadcasting world. He is currently working for CBS as a football analyst.

**Q:** I currently go to a Catholic high school. You went to a public high school and a Catholic university. What was that transition like? What roles do religion and faith play in your life now?

**A:** Religion and faith play a crucial role in my life. I think that's the compass, if you will, which guides me in my life decisions, how I go about making a life for my family, and a lot of the decisions that I can move forward with. As far as my experience going from a public high school to a Catholic college, it was a pretty difficult transition to be honest with you. I think the workload at a Catholic university – and I'm sure at a Catholic high school – is probably greater than what you would receive at a public school. At least that was what I noticed right off the bat, and it was a pretty difficult transition because of that...Even if I'd been accustomed to that sort of regimented schedule and workload in high school, I still don't know that it would have been that much easier. But it was definitely a difficult transition.

**Q:** Where did you learn the discipline to operate as a top-level athlete and a student at a top college at the same time?

**A:** My dad was a Marine, so I grew up being pretty regimented as far as my work ethic, chores. You know every day in school, from

second, third grade on, we'd come home and it was always – make sure your homework's done first, your parents had a chance to check it; then, you go out and play. There was always an order in which things were done around our house and in school, before sports even became a factor. I think all that kind of played hand-in-hand with my athletic career, understanding what I needed to do in terms of my work ethic and doing the right things and making sure I was focused on the right things. A lot of that was instilled in me by my father, my mom – my father, in particular, as far as sports go, as far as just the work ethic, understanding that your best advantage is outworking your opponent, being in better condition than they are, being stronger than they are – because those are things that you can control, whereas your speed and other things you can only control to some degree. Then, obviously, being prepared, being smart, being a student of whatever game it is, whether it's football, baseball, basketball. So, those were things that were instilled in me at a very young age that I feel were pretty beneficial moving forward.

**Q:** What was the greatest adversity you faced, and how did you overcome it?

**A:** I had a number of injuries in my professional career – I was really healthy during college – so, battling back from injuries, just trying to kind of stay alive as far as remaining a professional quarterback. You know, eventually everyone's time's going to end, and it took me years to eventually move on to something else. So, probably battling back from some of the injuries just to be the same caliber of player I was before, and really the transition from football into that next step, which, for me, was broadcasting. That's a tough transition to go through, more emotionally than anything else, as far as being able to move past the game, but still be around it so much and still have a desire to want to be great at broadcasting.

**Q:** How does faith and what you've learned as a graduate of a Catholic university affect how you live your life now?

**A:** It's funny, I think sometimes when people grow up, there's some people who don't adhere to the lessons or the simple things that you learn, whether it's when you're young in the Catholic Church, or as you grow older into high school or even into college. They don't apply the same principles and rules and the lessons that you learned, and they are always applicable. It doesn't matter what phase or step of your life – whether you're single and just out of college, or you have a wife and a marriage, or even once you have a child. All those things continually play hand-in-hand off one another. You know, it's all those small lessons and things you learned from a faith and religious standpoint when you're young and you don't think they are going to apply to you. They end up applying to you as a husband; they end up applying as a father.

**Q:** I've heard about your Third and Goal Foundation. How has faith played a role in that?

**A:** Basically, you go to Notre Dame for a reason, and for me, it was multifaceted. I wanted to develop as a young man. I thought that was a place that could help me develop spiritually, but also allow me to play the highest level of football and get the best education I could. It also surrounded me with people who had a charitable spirit and wanted to give back and to help people, for the greater good or for something greater than themselves. So that's what's led me to my foundation, to try and help out vets who were wounded in combat. My father was a Marine, and he obviously played a part in that, as well. We help make homes handicapped accessible for wounded veterans all over the country. We've also put on some different educational programs to help active duty servicemen and women to transition back to civilian life. If they're looking to continue their education, start their education, or get back to their undergraduate education, we worked with the University of Notre Dame to put on some programs to help in that transition. ✦

# 上海 Flying with

## Frank Mattimoe '18 Spent

by Andrew Donnelly '20

The moment Frank Mattimoe '18 stepped off his 20-hour flight to the land of the Red Dragon, he knew he was in for a big change.

Mattimoe had traveled to Shanghai, China along with 24 other American students as part of a scholarship program known as the National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y). Each year, the initiative, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, selects around 100 high-school applicants to thoroughly explore the Chinese culture and foster well-informed perspectives along the way. Frank was one student chosen out of a competitive applicant pool of nearly 4,000. Every student was required to take a pledge to speak only the native language of Mandarin during their six weeks overseas.



Frank credits much of his success as a Chinese student to Mr. Gregory Walsh (right), who has instructed him in the language for several years now.

“I took a leap deciding to study Chinese at Chaminade,” Frank said before the trip. “Now, I’m so thankful to implement my language skills abroad.”

Needless to say, he was up to the challenge.

Frank’s cultural education would extend far beyond simply the land’s native tongue. He fully immersed himself in his new place of study by staying with a host family for two of his six weeks in China and in a dorm room for the rest of the time. Learning to adapt to life in Shanghai, a 750-year old city half-way around the world, was daunting at first. Nearly everything was different, from the scorching-hot weather – at one point it reached 117 degrees Fahrenheit – to the food, which is very different from the Chinese cuisine we are familiar with here in New York (although, Frank did say he thoroughly enjoyed the food trucks in China, which included squid, Chinese fried

chicken and chou doufu, or “stinky tofu”).

In particular, Frank was struck by the fact that the streets of Shanghai, the most populated city in China with 24 million residents, were significantly more crowded than those in the United States, even in big cities like New York.

Perhaps the most tedious adjustment for Frank in the early stages of his trip was the time difference – Shanghai is twelve hours ahead of New York. Naturally, Frank was exhausted, but fulfilled, after each busy day.

“For the first few nights, I was so tired that I’d fall asleep by 9:00,” Frank said.

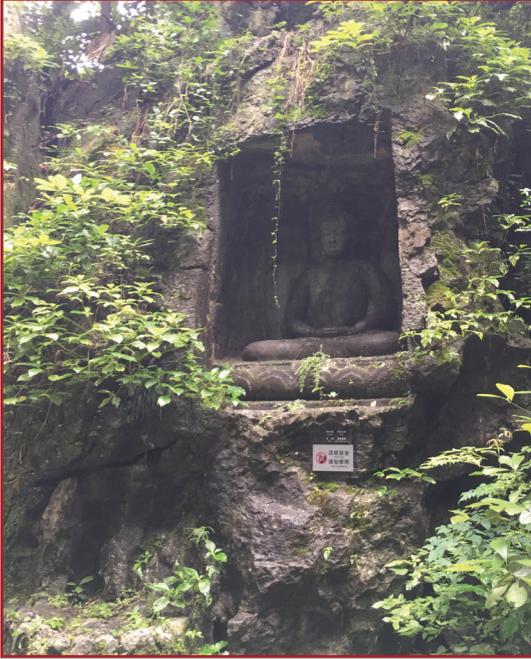
Frank explained that he awoke each morning determined to absorb as much of his new surroundings as possible. Along with traveling to Shanghai, he toured the famous cities of Hangzhou, Suzhou, and Zhujiyajiao, also known as the “Venice of China.” He visited plenty of monuments and attractions within these cities. Among his favorites were the Shanghai Oriental Pearl Tower and the Confucian Temple. The 1,535-foot-tall Pearl Tower, which functions as a radio and television broadcast structure, was built in 1994 and remains one of the more impressive and prominent landmarks in all of China. The beautiful Confucian Temple, meanwhile, commemorates



Some bad weather was not enough to stop Frank from enjoying his experience overseas. (Photo Courtesy: Frank Mattimoe)

# With Dragons 中国

## Frank's Summer in China



Frank spent some time in a meditation garden in Hangzhou, which was filled with many impressive sights, including this Buddha statue. (Photo Courtesy: Frank Mattimoe)

the great philosopher and teacher Confucius, aside from being one of Shanghai's most serene attractions.

Frank credits his eloquence in Mandarin and his passion for Chinese culture to Mr. Gregory Walsh, his Chinese teacher at Chaminade.

"Frank dives right into things like this," Mr. Walsh said of his student. "He has enriched my classroom not only through his academic dedication, but also his desire to share his passion with his classmates."

Throughout his travels, Frank practiced his Chinese often, and he said that having a positive experience was contingent on his ability to communicate effectively in Mandarin. He had to navigate his way around using only his second language, which allowed his skills to develop rapidly during the trip. For the development of their communication skills – and simply for fun – Frank and his peers went to local markets to bargain for goods. Frank left Shanghai a more proficient Chinese speaker, but he also returned from the booming metropolis with incredible "real-life" experiences. He had to learn to be independent and responsible in a vast, bustling, foreign city.

"Some things that this trip helped me with the most were maturity and self-reliance," Frank reflected. "It not only developed me as a student of Chinese, but also as a person."

The overseas stay certainly helped Frank become a more confident Chinese speaker. He has already demonstrated a

strong understanding of the language at Chaminade and as a participant in the highly selective NSLI-Y program. Now, however, he has gone beyond the books; he is comfortable holding entire conversations in Mandarin, a rare skill among students in the U.S. today.

It is said that experience is life's best teacher, and Frank's progress is certainly evidence of that. The time he spent exploring the Chinese culture firsthand provided him with more knowledge than any sort of class or similar resource could have.

Frank hopes to return to Shanghai soon through a New York University undergraduate program which is stationed there.

"I am confident [Frank] will take advantage of every opportunity abroad, as he has already done here in the States, to grow as a scholar and budding ambassador," said Mr. Walsh.

One particular lesson Frank learned in his time overseas was that we all should take advantage of the opportunities we are given and set ambitious goals for ourselves. Frank says that we should not be afraid to pursue what we are most passionate about. Indeed, much can be gained if you follow your heart – if you persist towards whatever it is you have in mind, just as Frank did.

"If anyone is interested in Chinese culture and language, this program is definitely something to work towards," said the senior.

But perhaps more importantly, as he pointed out, it's all about finding oneself in the people and places he encounters.

"I basically fell in love with China at school and decided to immerse myself in its culture and language," explained Frank. "And that's one of the best decisions I've ever made." 🌟



Shanghai boasts one of the most beautiful skylines in the world - which Frank was able to enjoy with his own eyes. (Photo Courtesy: Frank Mattimoe)

# Point

## TAKING A KNEE

### NFL Players' Protest as American as It Gets

by Oscar Matos '18

To many people, the national anthem represents our country – the United States of America – a place where liberty is considered a God-given right. Such liberty includes the freedom of speech, the freedom to fight for our beliefs, and the freedom to participate in a peaceful protest.

Opposition to the recent actions of many NFL players has come from all directions. Many argue that kneeling before the flag is an act of blatant disrespect directed toward our current soldiers and veterans who have fought bravely to protect all for which this country stands. When Colin Kaepernick began kneeling for the national anthem during the 2016 NFL pre-season, he did so to send a message. Not a message of disrespect towards the military, or a message of hatred towards the United States, or anything involving politics or President Trump. Rather, his message was one of disapproval for institutional racism and police brutality directed towards minorities, particularly those in San Jose, California. Whether or not this message was justified is irrelevant; the fact of the matter is that Kaepernick and the dozens of other athletes who have joined him in kneeling believe this cause to be real and worth fighting for. Would you stand for a country that, in your eyes, doesn't stand for you?

The feeling of oppression shared by many minorities is not one that is held solely by professional athletes; millions of people across this country feel the same way. Most of these individuals, however, don't have the same platform on which to express themselves that an NFL player does. To have their voices effectively heard, these players need to send a message that is clear and convincing enough to gain the attention of millions of people. For Kaepernick (or any other professional athlete), no amount of interviews or Twitter rants could have generated nearly as much attention as his kneeling during the anthem did. Doing something flashy was the best way to drive attention to his point, so he did the most attention-grabbing thing he could think of.

Let's face it: no recent race-related protest has garnered anywhere near the amount of criticism as the act of kneeling for the anthem; the media coverage of riots in cities like Ferguson and Baltimore died down after a few weeks, but stories about the anthem protests have been dominating sports media for over a year now. The players who kneel during the anthem do so

form of appreciation for our sacrifice than for Americans to enthusiastically exercise their freedom of speech."

Our troops fight every day to protect American ideals – such as our rights to peacefully protest and the freedom of speech. To force NFL players to stand for the national anthem would be a huge disservice to our Constitutional rights, and thus, to America as a whole.

In essence, what these athletes are doing is exemplifying American ideals, not degrading them. In a sense, professional athletes using the national anthem as a vehicle to invoke change is about as American as it gets. Our country's roots lie in our ability to stand up for a system of beliefs. From the days of the American Revolution to the upheaval following the election of Donald Trump, America has long afforded its people the right to stand up for their particular cause. And if you don't agree with that cause, it's just as acceptable to argue your side of the case. That's part of the reason features like *Point/Counterpoint* exist in the first place.

What is not acceptable is forcing them to be silent, because doing so takes away from what makes America so great – our ability to have a real dialogue, with criticisms from all angles heard. If we force these players to stand for the anthem, we are sending a message – one that says that their voices don't matter, that their opinion is irrelevant. And this message, like the message

sent by kneeling during the anthem, will have effects that reach far beyond an NFL stadium.

Given the frenzy surrounding the national anthem, it's important to take a step back and think about what's really happening. I don't know about you, but I can't remember the last time I stood during the national anthem; I usually stay seated on my couch and wait for it to be over so the big game can start. Should we really be calling for these NFL players to be fired for not standing during the anthem when many of us are guilty of the same exact thing? ➤



with the intent of generating attention for their message, and it's clearly working.

The people who don't agree with athletes' decisions to kneel during the anthem need to think about one thing – the U.S. Constitution. Because the decision to kneel during the anthem is a freedom clearly protected by the First Amendment, forcing these athletes to stop would violate their Constitutional rights. For those saying that kneeling during the national anthem is disrespectful to the military, look no further than the open letter that dozens of U.S. veterans signed, which says, in part: "Far from disrespecting our troops, there is no finer

# Counterpoint

## TAKING A STAND

### NFL Players Must Lead the Process of Healing

by Colin Capece '18

Americans have always possessed a multitude of beliefs and opinions. This is what makes our country the greatest in the world. Unlike many other nations across the globe, everyone has a chance to peacefully express his or her opinion without fearing any sort of legal retaliation.

Compromise is a hallmark of our country, and the people who hold the power in government are supposed to consider a number of perspectives before they determine what is best for the general population. In order for our country to function properly, respect must be given to all reasonable opinions.

Recently, however, America has been marked by incredible division. People are no longer considering the opinions of their fellow citizens, responding instead with heated and vengeful opposition. No current event more clearly depicts this reality than the protests of hundreds of NFL players who are taking a knee before the American flag while the national anthem is being played.

Every time I am scrolling through a sports website, I find some new development in this story, which continues to evolve as the football season progresses. It seems as if everyone has a different take on the issue, and many are expressing their opinions with great fervor. President

Donald Trump's passionate comments in opposition to the protests, as well as Vice President Mike Pence's early exit during an Indianapolis Colts game, have only added fuel to the fire.

There is even division among the players who are participating in the protest. When Colin Kaepernick started this movement during last year's NFL preseason, he was attempting to draw more attention to police brutality and the unfair treatment of minorities. Now, however, many people are unsure exactly why many players are kneeling. Are they still fighting for minorities, or has this display become a political issue? The very act of kneeling for the national anthem has become a microcosm of the American nation

as a whole – our country is a house divided, and in the words of Abraham Lincoln, "a house divided against itself cannot stand."

Many argue that players who kneel for the national anthem are disrespecting those men and women who have fought so courageously in the armed forces to protect our nation. This is certainly a valid and

cess. Our nation is at its absolute best when we are all united in the pursuit of a single, commonly held goal. This is precisely how people can reconcile their differences and together forge a brighter future for our nation. Players claim that kneeling for the national anthem helps draw the public's attention toward a particular cause. However, there are other platforms outside of the football field, such as social media or in local communities, which they can utilize to accomplish this goal.

NFL players must now use their influence to draw people's attention to a new cause. After the events that have transpired over the last year, if every NFL player stood for the national anthem, it would help orient the nation towards unity once again. When we are not so focused on our differences, but rather the fact that we share common ground as American citizens, we can create a nation where peace and understanding will triumph over hatred and ignorance. By standing together for the national anthem, NFL players can start a conversation about a movement that can make a difference for America as a whole.

The national anthem was written in 1812 by an American named Francis Scott Key. As he watched a naval battle at Fort McHenry from a British ship, he heard the sounds of exploding cannonballs thundering in all

directions and the screams from rockets piercing the skies. Amidst all of the chaos, he saw a tattered, yet still waving, American flag.

Mending the scars that have recently formed in the United States will certainly be a difficult feat, one that may take years to accomplish. The American flag, though, has always been a symbol of such perseverance. While they seem to be splintered in the focus of their protest now, NFL players must unify their stance if any progress is going to be achieved. Now more than ever, our country needs someone to stand up and lead America through this perilous fight and into a more prosperous future. ➤



justified point of view. Of course, without the sacrifices of these soldiers, NFL players would not possess the right to protest in the first place. However, this is not the sole reason why players should stand for the national anthem.

NFL players must remember that they play the country's most popular sport, and that their occupation allows them to be in the national spotlight often. The national anthem and the American flag are symbols of American unity. NFL players must use their platform to help the country rally around these symbols.

There is much work to be done to heal a nation that is splintered, and these athletes can play an instrumental role in this pro-

**Continued from Page 1**

Some of the people they encountered in the first week of their journey were shocked to see the small sign that read “Walking Across America” taped to the front of their trusty cart (which was affectionately nicknamed “Caddy”).

“They were always polite, but they didn’t seem to think we’d really do it,” observed Danny.

Even in the midst of a tornado scare, consecutive days without food or drink, and the brutal desert heat of the West, Danny and Abby persisted onward towards the Golden State until they completed the trip on September 16.

The best part, Danny says, was the slow pace at which they walked. It allowed them to really absorb the sights and sounds of America in all its natural beauty.

Surprisingly, the duo agrees that their favorite state to see was also the toughest to walk through. This state was marked by many drastic changes in elevation, and at times the nearest town was 100 miles away. On top of that, water was impossible to find in some areas during the summer months they were there. Still, Danny and Abby agreed that Utah was the state to which they most wanted to return; they just may not walk from one end to the other the next time!

The trip was filled with surprises. Neither Danny nor Abby expected there to be much to experience in Kansas based on some uneventful drives they’ve had through the state. After walking through it, however, Kansas became one of their “favorite places in the world,” as Danny put it.

You’ve probably never heard of Strawberry, California, a small town of under 100 inhabitants about 30 miles from Lake Tahoe. Danny and Abby had no idea it existed until they arrived there near the end of the journey, but after experiencing Strawberry’s captivating

landscape and the generosity of the people who lived there, they will never forget it. One household actually insisted on throwing Danny and Abby a dinner party before they moved on to San Francisco.

At the end of their 200-day walk, Danny and Abby were greeted by their families and friends before plunging headfirst into the Pacific Ocean.

As noted on their Instagram page, “It was the perfect end to a journey that... changed our perspectives and in the end left us feeling inspired.”

The two agree that the most noteworthy observation they made along the way was not of the mighty Mississippi River or the golden plains of Kansas; rather, they were struck by the compassion strangers showed them on the trip. Both Danny and Abby gained a new perspective on the inherent and everyday goodness in people.

“It was amazing to see how universally positive almost everyone was towards us,” said Danny.

Abby echoed those sentiments, saying, “Even as kids, we are told to be wary of strangers. However, so many strangers welcomed us into their homes and shared a meal with us....Practically every day we experienced the kindness of others and felt a deep sense of community across the country.”



This photo, taken near Lake Tahoe in California, is but a glimpse of all the natural splendor Danny and Abby experienced on their walk. (Photo Courtesy: Danny Finnegan)

When they first arrived in California, Danny and Abby were approached by a young man who just so happened to be making a trek across the country himself. He immediately recognized them from their blog, and they ended up spending a few days together.

Danny and Abby have kept in touch with both that young man and many of the people who gave them places to stay overnight, as well as those who simply stopped to talk with them along the way. Whether by sending postcards or chatting online, the two have expressed their appreciation for all the support they received on their trip.

Aside from building new connections, Danny and Abby also deepened their relationship with each other. From long conversations and playing Scrabble to simply enjoying nature side by side, they inevitably made lifelong memories together in those six months.

“I can give summaries of the walk to people, but Danny is the only one who will ever completely understand what it was like,” Abby reflected. “We’ll always share that bond.”

Since reaching San Francisco, Abby has travelled back home and is currently working in a restaurant. She is preparing to volunteer for a crisis hotline and will be applying for case manager jobs in January. Danny is working in sales for an auto-parts company after taking the train back to Long Island from California. He is currently studying for the LSAT with the goal of someday becoming a lawyer.

Even though they have gone their separate ways, their mutual experiences – that “bond” to which Abby referred – will continue to guide them moving forward.

One can only imagine where such insatiable curiosity and desire to serve will take Danny and Abby next in their spirited walk along the path of life. ➤



Despite still having a long way to go, Danny and Abby stand happily on Mount Washington, overlooking Pittsburgh. (Photo Courtesy: Danny Finnegan)

# TAKE ME HOME, COUNTRY ROAD

A Tech-Free Week of Service in West Virginia

by Aidan Fitzgerald '18

As I timidly stepped off a cramped mini-bus, my shocked senses tried to adapt to their new environment. I could hear and see only nature, and I felt an unfortunate amount of humidity. These momentary observations were quickly forgotten when I was immediately enveloped in a hug. After two days of travel I, along with my five classmates – Jack Bingham, Jack Kenny, John Murphy, Brendan Romano, and Nicholas Richardson – had arrived at Nazareth Farm, a Catholic social services organization located in Doddridge County, West Virginia. Even in late July, the volunteers at the Farm made quick work of hugging each of us, making sure to say “Welcome home!” as they did.

When we first boarded that bus two days prior, we had no idea what lay in store for us at the Farm. Despite over a decade’s worth of Chaminade students preceding us in taking this trip, the actual experience remained a well-kept secret.

Being “welcomed home” to a place with no cell service did little to soothe our uncertainty. However, our group made a promise to keep an open mind and fully immerse ourselves in the Nazareth Farm experience.

We quickly learned that Nazareth Farm is unlike any place we had ever experienced. Despite the physical labor the service aspect of the trip demanded, we were limited to three showers for the week, two of which had to be conducted outdoors. We were not even allowed to keep track of the time, as we were on “God’s time,” also known as “10:10,” which on an analog clock resembles Jesus raising his hands toward Heaven. Many other unheard-of traditions were explained as well, but I’ll keep those a secret for future volunteers to discover.

The Chaminade contingent at Nazareth Farm was joined by the ladies of Nardin Academy in Buffalo, as well as a group of parishioners from Indiana. At dinner on our first night we were split into groups in order to divide our labor among various sites around the community. My group consisted of myself, Jack Bingham,

Madison from Nardin Academy, Katie from Indiana, and two moderators.

Once split into these units, we were ready to tackle the service projects for the week. Spread across three days, we would be working on siding a house, constructing a ramp for an elderly woman’s porch, and roofing (better known as “ruffin’,” in West Virginian). Each of these work sites presented their unique challenges, but the service performed at each was rewarding. We learned a number of new skills, like woodwork-

to many Americans, this meaningful sacrifice was only possible for Betty through her selfless and kind nature, and it is just one example of the grace displayed by so many of the impoverished people of West Virginia.

Our time at the work sites left plenty of 10:10s for us to engage with Nazareth Farm’s many traditions. We participated in community night, which brought together many citizens of Doddridge County for dinner at the Farm. Without cell phones to distract us,

the individual parties quickly disintegrated into one big community of volunteers, and many lasting memories and friendships were formed.

The existing community caught us off guard, as well. Far from being an organization filled with nuns or members of some other religious order, Nazareth Farm is primarily made up of men and women in their early-20s. These volunteers, only a few years older than I, were inspiring in their zeal for service to the poor and Catholic social teaching. I am still inspired by the passion displayed by volunteers like Brian, who balances working for the Farm with raising foster children.



From left to right: Bro. Patrick Sarsfield, S.M. '86, Nicholas Richardson, Jack Kenny, Jack Bingham, Aidan Fitzgerald, John Murphy, Brendan Romano and Mr. Daniel Haslbauer '11 smile together after their week of service.

ing and construction safety, and the people whom we served were incredibly appreciative of our efforts.

In particular, building the ramp for a woman named Betty was an extremely fulfilling experience. Due to tumors in her legs, Betty had difficulty descending from her porch and needed a ramp to easily get out of her house. When we arrived at her home in the morning, she chatted with us for a while, asking us questions about our hobbies and homes, and she explained to us how she had worked four jobs her entire adult life to raise her sons as a single mother. Betty could not afford the best medication for her legs and had to settle for cheaper prescriptions to maintain her health. Despite her financial limitations, she drove to Little Caesars to buy us pizza for lunch.

This act of pure generosity exemplified her natural instinct to put others before herself. Although a few pies of pizza may seem trivial

The week flew by. We fit so much into a few short days, making lasting connections and indelible memories. When we gathered together for our final prayer, an older volunteer we all called Marshall led the group. He said that if we ever wanted to come home, we simply need call an hour ahead so that a meal and a warm bed could be waiting for us when we arrived. This simple message exemplified the love found at Nazareth Farm – a fundamental belief that we are all our brother and sister’s keepers. Although we boarded that mini-bus uncertain and unfamiliar with one other, we reentered as close friends leaving behind a place we had so rapidly come to love.

Nazareth Farm isn’t just a trip available for high school students, and if you ever decide to trek down West Virginia’s country roads and experience the unique bonds the Farm creates, I promise you will find yourself right at home. ➤

# Airstrip Analysis

## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ANCIENT!

### Netflix Overwhelms the Entertainment Industry

#### \$13.99 per month.

This new price, implemented by Netflix in the beginning of November for its premium users, is a full two dollars more expensive than the current premium subscription cost. Netflix has had the flourishing online streaming market cornered for years, but with its recent discontinuation of a number of shows, on top of its rising prices, a question arises – is the online service truly the best value?

With several new competitors on the rise, many believe the streaming juggernaut's throne is now vulnerable for the first time.

Netflix was founded in 1997 as a company dedicated to selling and renting DVDs to its customers. By 2002 the company already had over a million subscribers. As Netflix's popularity grew, the industry it was a

part of expanded. The digital age of entertainment began wiping out the need for DVDs, so in 2007, Netflix started streaming movies and television shows online. Later, in 2011, the company decided to split itself, keeping online streaming of shows and movies to the original Netflix name while designating a service called Qwikster for the sale of DVDs. This move kept Netflix in control of the industry, but the company soon found a few rivals with whom to compete.

Similar platforms such as Hulu Plus and Amazon Prime have been slowly chipping away at Netflix's control, making strides in their efforts to keep up with the service's relentless pace. Despite not enjoying the same popularity as Netflix, these companies do offer subscribers many benefits. For example, both Amazon Prime and Hulu Plus have pricing options cheaper than Netflix's. On average, the two platforms cost significantly less than a monthly Netflix subscription. Additionally, Amazon Prime and Hulu Plus both offer a greater amount of content, especially when it comes to movies. In 2016, Amazon Prime offered four times as many movies as Netflix did, while Hulu Plus carried about double the amount of Netflix's library. Both rival companies currently stream fan-favorites like *Nerve* along with classics such as *Vanilla Sky* and *Kill Bill*.

Netflix isn't known for the movies it offers, though. Many of its current 100 million users have undoubtedly subscribed to view the popular television series available to them. In 2012, more than 11,000 television shows were available to subscribers, but since then almost 6,000 have been dropped. Although a substantial number, this doesn't come as a surprise when the price of airing a single episode is considered. One of the more popular shows to stream on Netflix, *The Walking Dead*, costs the company approximately \$1.35 million per episode. With

seven seasons and 99 episodes in total, this amounts to Netflix spending nearly \$140 million dollars to secure the rights to just one television series.

Netflix users need to be assured that the shows they do have access to are of the highest quality, or else the service is far less valuable. True to its innovative spirit, the company has come up with a creative solution to this reality.

Netflix has attempted to counter its discontinuation of the offering of some shows with periodic releases of its own original series. With the debut of *House of Cards* in 2013, Netflix embarked on a path toward self-sufficient dominance.

In 2017, Netflix's budget for its original series was \$6 billion. This is a huge sum of money to invest into a fragile market, but

overall it seems to be paying off – figuratively and literally.

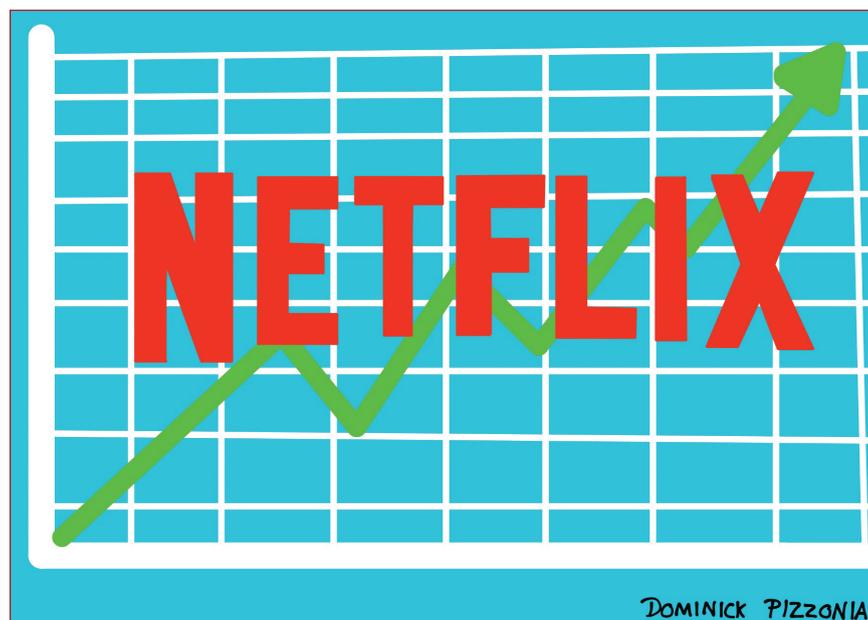
The rapid release of several original shows on Netflix in 2016 raised the company's profits by a whopping 56%. Shows like *Stranger Things* and *13 Reasons Why* have both been critically acclaimed, receiving ratings of at least 95% on Rotten Tomatoes. These shows' actors have been catapulted to celebrity status and are featured in mag-

azines and widely viewed talk shows like *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*. In addition to high ratings from third-party sources, Netflix's own subscribers have given these original series higher ratings than the many other shows in Netflix's vast library. This great deal of success sets Netflix apart from the competition and points toward a bright future for the company – one of continued dominance in the entertainment industry.

This focus on crafting original and compelling stories backed up by great performances by fresh-faced actors and actresses is unique to Netflix – not just in the streaming business, but in the entertainment business as a whole. Instead of focusing on high volume and a massive library selection like the competition, Netflix is focusing on having the most enjoyable and impactful options.

This strategy is extremely refreshing in a media-saturated age, but is also exceptionally brilliant. Instead of being annoyed at the hike in subscription costs, fans of Netflix's original series should instead be excited to see how much further these additional funds will take Netflix down this path of great storytelling.

With the promise of Netflix's quality and originality secure for years to come, you can be guaranteed that its new price tag is worth every cent. ➤



by Cole Dougherty '18

“Instead of focusing on high volume and a massive library selection like the competition, Netflix is focusing on having the most enjoyable and impactful options.”

# PARA *Chutestrings*

## TARGETING THE WARRIORS

### Will Golden State Continue Their Streak in 2018?

On October 17, the Cleveland Cavaliers opened the NBA regular season against the new-look Boston Celtics, officially marking the end of the most chaotic offseason in the league's history. But as nearly every contending team underwent a major change or two, the Golden State Warriors stood pat. After all, why would arguably the most talented team in history change things up?

There's no doubt about it - the Warriors are entering the season as the overwhelming favorite to win the Finals. But the target on a champion's back, combined with the fatigue that comes with an extended playoff run, makes earning back-to-back titles much easier said than done. Look no further than the fact that during their three-year reign at or near the top of the league, Golden State has yet to lose a key player to a season-ending injury; they might be overdue in this and similar regards. And, if Golden State falters, a slew of teams have a real shot to take their spot.

The team with the best chance to overtake the Warriors may very well be the Houston Rockets, but even they are surrounded by question marks. While the Rockets added an all-time great in Chris Paul, they had to give the heart and soul of their team in

Patrick Beverley to the Clippers in order to do so. It will also be interesting to see if Paul and James Harden can coexist, seeing as they are two ball-dominant players who will now have to share touches. If they can learn to play together, the league will be faced with one of the best offensive backcourts in history.

On July 11, the Oklahoma City Thunder acquired Paul George in an attempt to pair Russell Westbrook, last season's MVP, with another star. While George is no Kevin Durant, he is a far better fit with Westbrook than Durant ever was. He doesn't need the ball in his hands to be effective - a necessity when playing with someone like Westbrook - and is also an elite defender and rebounder. In late September, OKC's general manager, Sam Presti, complemented the George trade by acquiring Carmelo Anthony from the Knicks for center Enes Kanter and forward Doug McDermott, two decent players who are nowhere near Anthony's level. The addition of George and Anthony, combined with the signing of all-around forward Patrick Patterson and the continued development of younger players like center Steven Adams, should help the Thunder to make some serious noise in the Western Conference.

The Minnesota Timberwolves shocked the league on draft night by trading for Jimmy Butler in a lopsided deal; the T'wolves gave up little besides guard Zach LaVine, a young player who, in a best-case scenario, will become just as good as Jimmy Butler is right now. The acquisition of Butler was later compounded by the signing of a seasoned point guard in Jeff

Teague. On paper, this Timberwolves team has the look of a force to be reckoned with; Butler and Teague will be joining a starting lineup that features two young stars in Andrew Wiggins and Karl-Anthony Towns. However, the four aforementioned players are all at their best with the ball in their hands; if one or two of them can't learn to take a backseat offensively, the Timberwolves might be caught dead in the water. With the raw talent they possess, overcoming this issue could mean a deep playoff run, however.

The Boston Celtics will look virtually unrecognizable compared to last year's squad. They shocked the world in August by trading for young superstar Kyrie Irving, giving up their



franchise player, Isaiah Thomas, and forward Jae Crowder to the Cleveland Cavaliers in the process. They also drafted Jayson Tatum, a former Duke Blue Devil who is one of the brightest prospects in basketball. Additionally, Boston gave up one of the league's best defenders in Avery Bradley in a questionable trade with the Detroit Pistons. Despite all of the uncertainty around this team, one thing has remained certain - Brad Stevens, one of the best

head coaches in the league, will find a way to help this team gel quickly, possibly en route to an Eastern Conference Finals showdown with the Cavaliers.

On the flip side of the Kyrie Irving trade, the Cavaliers managed to receive a solid haul for their star. In addition to Thomas, who averaged 28.9 points per game last season, and an underrated player in Crowder, the Cavs also added a first-round pick that could very well fall in the top five of a loaded draft. And they may have to build around that top-five player going forward, as rumors are swirling about LeBron James' future with the team. If the King does decide to leave, the Cavs will have to start from scratch, but as of now they are going all-in for another Finals appearance. Thomas should do a good job of replacing Irving's production, and Crowder will provide the Cavs with a serviceable backup who can hold the fort down while James is on the bench. Had Crowder been with Cleveland last year, the Finals could have turned out very differently. Expect the Cavs to coast through the regular season, as they have in years past, before turning on the afterburners at playoff time.

Most years, any one of these teams would be considered top-tier contenders for the championship. As it stands now, however, every team is playing for the right to lose to the Warriors. But the league can change in an instant, and if the Warriors are hit by the injury bug, it's anyone's title to win. ➤



by Oscar Matos '18

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1) Brandon Janosko '19 has the end zone in sight as he runs into the open field during a home game against Christ the King.

2) Brendan Slattery '19 sprints past a St. Anthony's defender along the sideline during a 0-0 draw on Ott Field.

3) Members of the Chaminade crew team row on the Long Island Sound during a training session at North Hempstead Beach Park.

